

NOTES

THE GENUS POINSETTIA (EUPHORBIACEAE) IN FLORIDA

Dressler's publication in 1962 (Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. **48**: 329-341) of a synopsis of the genus *Poinsettia* did much to unravel the synonymy of a group which had long been in need of critical study. Most of his field work was done in Central America and the southwestern United States, but an examination of Florida material suggests that in most cases his conclusions hold well for collections from that State. The one exception is his reduction to synonymy of Small's *Poinsettia pinetorum*, which is understandable in that the name has largely been misapplied on material in the herbaria which he examined, but which is easily seen to be a mistake when collections from the pinelands of southern Florida are available.

The following key will separate the species known to occur or which may be found in the State:

- 1a. Plants woody, often more than 2 m tall; cyathium more than 5 mm diam; seed ca 10 mm long*P. pulcherrima*
- 1b. Plants herbaceous or ligneous at base, but rarely reaching 1 m tall; cyathium 2-3 mm diam; seed ca 3 mm long.
 - 2a. Plants perennial from thickened storage roots; leaves all linear, floral bracts and upper leaves sometimes flushed deep purple; cyathia deep purple, rarely more than 5 in a cluster, glands bilabiate, usually 4 per cyathium*P. pinetorum*
 - 2b. Plants annual or perennating, but rootstocks not markedly enlarged for storage; leaves often broad, pandurate or ovate, rarely narrower than linear-lanceolate; floral bracts green, purple spotted or white or red flushed at base but not uniformly deep purple; cyathia green, usually in clusters of 5-20, glands bilabiate or cup-shaped, rarely more than one except in the first cyathium formed in a cluster.
 - 3a. Cyathial gland with a circular opening; floral bracts green or purple spotted, but never red at base; seed angular*P. heterophylla*
 - 3b. Cyathial gland bilabiate; floral bracts green or red at base; seed not angular.
 - 4a. Plants glabrous or with soft pubescence at tips; lower leaves alternate; floral bracts usually red at base*P. cyathophora*
 - 4b. Plants usually hispid-pubescent, particularly at tips; leaves opposite or rarely subopposite; floral bracts green, often white near base*P. dentata*

Poinsettia pulcherrima (Willd.) Grah.

Commonly cultivated as an ornamental in peninsular Florida, and to be expected as an escape or as plants persisting on the sites of old homesteads in the southern part of the State.

Poinsettia pinetorum Small

This species resembles the most extreme narrow-leaved forms of *P. cyathophora*, but it may be distinguished by the multiple glands of most of its cyathia, by the

deep purple color of the cyathia and upper leaves, and by the swollen perennial rootstock. It has been found only in the pinelands of the oölitic limestone of Dade and Monroe counties, and forms part of the rich flora of this habitat threatened by man's activity in farming, building houses and preventing fires.

Poinsettia heterophylla (L.) Kl. & Gke.

Dressler points out that most workers have made no distinction between two easily separable species of American plants when using the name *Euphorbia heterophylla* L. An examination of a wide range of herbarium material confirms that the name has been applied both to the annual poinsettia with red and green floral leaves and a bilabiate cyathial gland, and to a coarser species with all leaves green (or at most purple splashed) and a circular mouth to the gland. He suggests that the name should be used for this second species, and that the more familiar plant with red coloration in its leaves should be called *E. cyathophora* Murr. [= *Poinsettia cyathophora* (Murr.) Kl. & Gke.]. His justification of this is a little terse, but the conclusion appears to be sound and will be followed here.

This plant of disturbed areas is common through the West Indies, Central and tropical South America. It appears to be quite widespread in peninsular Florida, but has probably been overlooked by most collectors in favor of the showier red-leaved species.

Poinsettia cyathophora (Murr.) Kl. & Gke.

Both this and the preceding species show a great deal of plasticity in their leaf shape, and the extremes of broad and linear leaves, which have been considered to belong to distinct taxa by some authors, often occur in the same population or even on different parts of the plant.

This species is found throughout Florida and in much of the eastern, southern and southwestern United States. Its range matches that of *P. heterophylla* in Central America and the West Indies, but it is of much less common occurrence in South America.

Poinsettia dentata (Michx.) Kl. & Gke.

No collection of this northern weed is known from the State, but it is included here since it seems possible that the southern limit of its range might include northern Florida as reported by Small in his *Manual of the Southeastern Flora*.—Derek Burch, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

ILEX DISCOLOR VAR. LAMPROPHYLLA (STANDL.) EDWIN, STAT. NOV. (AQUIFOLIACEAE)

Ilex discolor Hemsl. var. **lamprophylla** (Standl.) Edwin, stat. nov., based on *I. lamprophylla* Standl., Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci. **15**: 476, 1925; *I. carpenterae* Standl., loc. cit. 477; *I. davidsoniae* Standl., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Bot. Ser., **22**: 88, 1940—Gabriel Edwin, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois.